End of a Top Spy

By Peter Wilms
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Hitler, with pompous disregard for the realities of the situation, declared: "This is the biggest bluff pulled since the days of Genghis Khan. Who is responsible for this stupid situation?"

It was Gehlen who was responsible, and Gehlen was right. At least it might have prolonged Hitler's war and given him a chance to recoup his massive losses on other fronts.

But the Fuehrer went his way and General Gehlen went his — straight to the Americans. Having handed over his documents and revealed the position as it was, Gehlen made three demands:

- The staff of his unit should be directly under his orders; they should work as a purely German organization on a fixed budget financed by the Americans.
- Until Germany regained her sovereignty and formed a government of her own, he, Gehlen, should be regarded as a trustee of

Gehlen joined the West in an astonishing way. The door of an American patrol's chalet opened to reveal a gaunt, scruffy German with large, protruding ears.

He held under his arm a large bundle of papers. "I am General Reinhard Gehlen," he told the patrol leader.

But the Americans were not interested. With the war in Europe all but over, generals were not worth a pinch of salt. The allies were after the bigger fish — Himmler's security men and S.S. Black Guards.

Still, Gehlen insisted on his right to be heard. He had, he said, documents in which the Americans would be very interested. Finally, he was deposited with an intelligence officer.

He showed the officer the documents, and the American gasped, for they contained a run-down on Russian strength — plans and weapons it would have taken the United States years to compile.

Gehlen was rushed to Washington, where he made a deal which ensured his own personal salvation from war prosecution and at the same time struck fear and hatred into the Communist bloc.

Now, after more than 20 years as the anchor-man for American intelligence in Europe, he is retiring. But he cannot be forgotten. During the war he ran a highly secret department, known as Foreign Armies-East.

He was a trusted confidant of Hitler, un-